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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 wherein the exposed purine base comprises a structural form selected from the group consisting of single stranded region of nucleic acid, Hairpins, Loops and modifications to the phosphate backbone.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 wherein the technique comprises metal affinity.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 wherein the captured nucleic acid product comprises single-strandedness.

5. (Previously Presented) A scalable process for the highly selective, high yield separation of a desired recombinant polymerase from undesired nucleic acid, comprising:

 exposing purine bases present within either the desired nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid by a process selected from the group consisting of selective thermal denaturation and renaturation, alkaline denaturation, and restriction enzyme digestion yielding single-stranded overhangs;

 capture of the desired nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid by a technique selective for the exposed purine bases; and

 separation of the desired product from the undesired nucleic acid;

wherein the desired product comprises recombinant polymerase.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[4]] 5 wherein the exposed purine bases of single-stranded undesired (or desired) nucleic acids facilitate a separation step selected from the group consisting of: immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC).

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 comprising introducing single strandedness as an exposed purine base.

8. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 comprising a thermally based process in which a nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly cooled to below 65°C and is captured by an affinity method.

9. [Currently Amended] A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 performed after an alkali based process in which genomic DNA or other nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly neutralized and is captured by an affinity method.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 wherein undesired other plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular (“nicked”) and linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed from the desired supercoiled plasmid DNA product.

12. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 9 wherein undesired other plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular and linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed from supercoiled plasmid DNA product.

13. [Cancelled]

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the separation is achieved by adsorption on chelated metal.

15. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the separation is achieved using multi-channel plates.

16. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the desired product comprises Taq polymerase.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the separation is achieved using magnetic particles.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the separation of multiple samples is achieved in parallel fashion.

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a moiety selected from BACs, PACs and YACs.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises genomic DNA.

22. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises RNA.

23. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the capture technique comprises HIC.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim [[1]] 5 in which the capture technique comprises RPC.

25. Cancelled